

Matthew 6:16-24

Application Questions

1. Have you ever fasted before (a meal, a day, several days, a modified fast)? Describe what motivated you, how it went, and what your takeaway was. Is there some enterprise, stronghold or self-discipline where you think prayer and fasting would help? Prayerfully, make a plan.
2. Money holds a strong fascination for us. (This is probably why so many of Christ's parables involve money.) Why do you suppose wealth is so alluring? What are some ways people come under the spell of materialism?
3. In verses 19-21, Jesus tells us not to lay up treasures for ourselves on earth but to lay up treasures for ourselves in heaven. What acquiring of money and possessions is *permitted*? What acquiring of money and possessions is *prohibited*? How do we lay up treasures for ourselves in heaven? Read Luke 16:9-12. What are some ways you can "make friends for yourself?"
4. In your own words, describe the difference have having a "good eye" (healthy, generous, single) versus having a "bad eye" (wicked, worthless, sick). How does the eye and heart condition determine whether we are walking in light or darkness?
5. Why are God and Mammon mutually exclusive masters (meaning if you serve one, you can't serve the other)? Have you ever been tempted to serve both? How can you devote yourself to serve God only? (Read 1 Timothy 6:6-10; 17-19)